

Guide to the Alfred Augustus Reed Papers

MS 411



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

April 1983

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 411

CREATOR: Reed, Alfred Augustus, 1817-1878

TITLE: Alfred Augustus Reed papers

DATES: 1845-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and account books relating to Reed's activities in Batavia, Netherlands East Indies, as a representative of Paine, Stricker & Company of Amsterdam, a trading company. Correspondents include his wife, Caroline Suzette van Son Reed (1825-1861); the Band, Cramerus, Hasselman, van Alphen, and van Braam families, to which he was related by marriage; and Cramerus & Company, Amsterdam. Includes material relating to service and charitable projects in which Reed participated.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0411>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0411>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. William Gordon Reed, 1964.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Alfred Augustus Reed Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Alfred Augustus Reed: representative of Paine, Stricker, & Co. of Amsterdam in Batavia, Netherlands East Indies, from 1845 to 1857; returned to Boston where he retained commercial relations with the firm until 1865.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Van Son family, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

Scope and Contents

The Alfred Augustus Reed papers consist of twenty-nine boxes of correspondence and account books dealing with the personal and business life of Alfred Augustus Reed (1817-1878). The span of the collection is 1845 to 1865. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence relating to his commercial activities as a businessman and entrepreneur in the Netherland East Indies, based in Batavia on the island of Java.

Alfred Augustus Reed became the Batavia representative of Paine, Stricker & Co. of Amsterdam in 1845. He was one of the few major non-Dutch businessmen active in the East Indies. With his marriage in 1843 to Caroline Suzette van Son (1825-1861), Reed had established family ties with the van Braam, Band, van Alphen, Hasselman, and Cramerus families, all of which were prominent in the commercial or political life of Java (see van son genealogy below, in print version only). These family relationships were of great value to Reed in his trading career, and these names appear frequently in the correspondence.

Alfred A. Reed was active in the Java trade until the end of 1857, when he returned to Boston. From that time until 1865, he continued to maintain commercial relations with the Netherland East Indies through Paine, Stricker & Co. and Cramerus & Co., both of Amsterdam. Alfred Reed was also very active in the social life of the Western community in Java. He participated in a number of service and charitable projects including the drive to establish a secondary school, in Herwijnen.

A large portion of the collection consists of packets and notebooks into which letters to and from Reed have been sewn or glued. These letters are in general, but not exact, chronological order. The packets have been divided into smaller units but have been left in their original order for the most part. The distinction made by Reed in organizing the packets into Java and Europe-America correspondence and into business and family correspondence has not been careful, particularly since Reed had family ties with many business associates. Further, the Europe and America packets contain letters from correspondents abroad, some in the United States, but mainly in Singapore, Manila, Canton, Hong Kong, Macao, Calcutta, Madras, Cape

Town, Amsterdam, and Paris. The material in the collection is in English and Dutch, with the largest part of the correspondence relating to Java, in the latter language.

The papers were the gift of Mrs. William Gordon Reed in 1964. For further information concerning Alfred Reed and these papers see the article by Robert van Niel in the register file.

Collection Contents

Java correspondence

b. 1, f. 1-4	1845 Jul-1847 Dec A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 2, f. 5-9	1848 Jan-1849 Dec A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 3, f. 10-13	1850 Jan-1851 Feb A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 4, f. 14-17	1851 Mar-1853 Jul A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 5, f. 18-20	1853 Jul-1854 Jan A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 6, f. 21-23	1854 Jun-1856 Jun A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.
b. 7, f. 24-26	1856 Mar-1857 Sep A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.

Europe and America correspondence (*)

b. 8	1845-1851	
b. 9	1845-1856	
b. 10	1854-1857	
b. 11	Household and business accounts	1850-1857 November

Letterbooks

b. 12	1846-1852 Jul
b. 13	1852 Jul-1856 Mar

b. 14	1856 Apr-1857 Oct	
b. 15	1857 Nov-1859	
Paine, Stricker & Co. correspondence		
b. 16, f. 1-5	1857 Dec-1858 Dec A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 17, f. 1-5	1860 Jan-1861 Dec A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 18, f. 1-6	1862 Jun-1864 Feb A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	
Business correspondence		
b. 19	1857 Dec-1859 Dec	
b. 20	1860 Jan-1862 Mar	
b. 21	1862 Apr-1863 Dec	
b. 22	1864 Jan-1865 Dec	
b. 23	Business accounts	1857 December-1865 September
Letters from family and friends		
b. 24	1857-1859	
b. 25	1860-1862	
b. 26	Herwijnen Project	
b. 27	Cassius Darling estate; Cramerus & Co., correspondence and accounts	
b. 28	Letters and accounts of Lemahabang Sugar factory	
Miscellaneous		
b. 29, f. 1	Journal of Java trip	1850
b. 29, f. 2	Article about Java	
b. 29, f. 3	Pictures	
b. 29, f. 4	Almanac	1852
b. 29, f. 5	Passport	

b. 29, f. 6 Printed articles

b. 29, f. 7 Miscellaneous

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Business
Businessmen
Dutch -- Indonesia
Shipping

Geographic Names

Amsterdam (Netherlands) -- Commerce
Asia
Indonesia -- Description and travel
Indonesia -- Economic conditions
Indonesia -- History -- 1798-1942
Java (Indonesia) -- Description and travel
Netherlands -- Colonies -- Indonesia

Genres / Formats

Account books

Names

Reed, Alfred Augustus, 1817-1878
Reed, Caroline Suzette van Son, 1825-1861

Corporate Bodies

Cramerus & Company
Paine, Stricker & Company